AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A device for deploying and managing a moveable weapon from a carrying vehicle to the ground, comprising:

lifting means for unloading the weapon down on the ground from the vehicle and putting the weapon back on the vehicle;

an interface configured to connect said lifting means and said weapon, the interface comprising a retractable structure having a short rigid connection allowing the weapon to be load on the vehicle and to put the weapon down on the ground when the retractable structure retracts and a loose connection allowing the weapon to move relatively to the vehicle when the retractable structure is relaxed, while keeping a link between the weapon and the carrying vehicle;

wherein said lifting means is configured to remove the weapon from the vehicle before lifting the weapon down, and is configured to position the weapon on the vehicle after lifting the weapon up.

22. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the said retractable structure comprises at least:

one flexible element connecting the lifting means to the weapon;

a traction member configured to relax and retract the flexible element.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising uncoupling means for uncoupling the flexible element from the weapon, and configured to be manually operable.

24. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 22, wherein [[the]] said retractable structure comprises self-centring elements configured to be engaged with one another when the flexible element is retracted, and configured to maintain, when in contact, their position against forces that tend to apply shear to the flexible element.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the self-centring elements comprise a male cone and a female cone, the male and female cones configured to engage with each other.

26. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the retractable structure comprises means positioned at one end of the flexible element and configured to hold the weapon.

27. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the retractable structure comprises means positioned at one end of the flexible element and configured to hold the weapon.

28. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the retractable structure comprises means positioned at one end of the flexible element and configured to hold the weapon.

29. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein said means comprise jaws configured to lockable engage with a tubular part of the weapon.

30. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the said lifting means comprise a crane, said crane comprising:

a first arm being rotatable positioned on a rear platform of the vehicle and configured to move the mortar above the ground, when the mortar is placed behind the vehicle;

a second arm being rotatably positioned at the free end of the fist arm, the second arm configured to unload the weapon from the rear of the vehicle and place the weapon into the appropriate position on the ground.

31. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the said lifting means comprise a crane, said crane comprising:

a first arm being rotatable positioned on a rear platform of the vehicle and configured to move the mortar above the ground, when the mortar is placed behind the vehicle;

a second arm being rotatably positioned at the free end of the fist arm, the second arm configured to unload the weapon from the rear of the vehicle and place the weapon into the appropriate position on the ground.

32. (**Currently Amended**) The device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the retractable interface further comprises a forked gantry fixed to the second arm of the crane and two flexible elements, each flexible element being placed within a corresponding fork of the gantry, the forked gantry and the two flexible elements being configured and arranged to hold the weapon at the ends of the gantry.

33. (Previously Presented) A vehicle equipped with a rear platform comprising a device as claimed in claim 32.